

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said rare earth element is included in a predominantly gamma phase TiAl alloy.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said rare earth element comprises Y included in an amount of about 1.5% to about 5.5% by weight of the alloy.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 including forming a surface oxide in-situ on the alloy.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the surface oxide is formed by cooling a hot casting comprising said alloy in air.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the surface oxide is formed in-situ by heating said alloy in an oxygen bearing atmosphere.

16. (Previously presented) A method of prolonging resistance of a titanium aluminide alloy to a molten metallic material comprising aluminum, comprising contacting the alloy for a time with the molten metallic material, removing the alloy from contact with the molten metallic material, cleaning the alloy to remove the metallic material thereon, heating the alloy in an oxygen-bearing atmosphere at elevated superambient temperature to form a surface oxide thereon, and re-contacting the alloy having the surface film thereon with the molten metallic material.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 including prior to first contacting the alloy with the molten metallic material, heating the alloy in an oxygen-bearing atmosphere at elevated temperature to form a surface oxide thereon.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 including providing a rare earth element in the alloy.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the rare earth element is provided in a predominantly gamma phase TiAl alloy.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the rare earth element is Y.

21. (Previously presented) In a method of die casting a molten metallic material comprising aluminum, wherein the molten metallic material is introduced into a die from a shot sleeve using a plunger in the shot sleeve, the improvement comprising providing one or more of said die, shot sleeve, and plunger as a titanium aluminide alloy including a rare earth element in an effective amount to prolong resistance to attack of said one or more of said die, shot sleeve and plunger by the molten metallic material.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said titanium aluminide alloy includes Y.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said Y is present in said alloy in an amount of about 1.5% to about 5.5% by weight of said alloy.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein a core element is disposed in the die and comprises said titanium aluminide alloy.